

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 a.m. ON FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, KINGSBRIDGE

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Wendy Bolt, Kingsbridge Playspaces Group
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Wayne Grills
Rosemary Speed, Sustainable Kingsbridge
Val Statters, Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club
Cllr Philip Yates

In Attendance: David Dain, local resident
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

13/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Irene Jeeninga, Graham Price & Jax Williams and Keith Rennells (SHDC Greenspace Projects Officer).

Keith Rennells (SHDC) had forwarded a comprehensive update, and Cllr Price a range of comments, on agenda related matters.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public.

13/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 October 2013 were approved as a correct record.

13/22 RECREATION GROUND

22.1 Draft management plan 2013-2018. An internal South Hams District Council (SHDC) matter relating to H&S, risk assessments, procedures etc. was progressing. The plan was a requirement for the Green Flag Award 2013; judging for 2014 would be via a 'mystery shop' rather than a formal inspection.

22.2 Assets/maintenance licence between South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC). A licence had been drafted and site plans were being prepared; target date was end of March.

22.3 Pond repairs and planting. Paul Taper (SHDC Senior Engineer) anticipated working up a solution for a pond repair and to have it constructed by Easter. At this juncture members would be in a position to discuss pond planting for summer Green Flag/South West In Bloom judging.

22.4 Sculpture. Cllr Wingate had spoken to Roger Pope (Principal, Kingsbridge Community College) regarding the design and production of sculpture in the park

22.5 Flooding at/from Derby Road. The new trash screens at Derby Road and the attenuation area, alongside the section removed from the bridge, were all working well.

The pond pump had broken recently and had been removed for either repair or renewal. SHDC and KTC would regularly survey the water level and open the sluice via the penstock if required. It was noted that high spring tides were forecast in the mornings from 31 January to 3 February.

22.6 Additional works.

- **Apple Tree.** SHDC agreed that the tree had little amenity value and could be felled. Members did not consider that it was a memorial tree and there had never been a plaque at the location. The tree should not be replanted in order to 'open up' the view into the park. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to fell the apple tree near the pond and that it should not be replaced.
- **Channel into pond.** Proposal for cobbles to be installed were in abeyance until a pond repair had been achieved.

22.7 Café update. Keith Rennells (SHDC Greenspace Projects Officer) was due to meet with Marika Byrne (Café Decks) shortly to discuss café operations and related matters.

22.8 Management of park games i.e. putting, bowling, boules and tennis. SHDC had noted committee concerns at the last meeting that payment for tennis courts was effectively an 'honesty box' which required people to attend the café therefore some users paid and others deliberately did not. SHDC had discussed management arrangements however, given limited resources, fees could only be collected during café opening hours which allowed users at other times free access. The issue of people avoiding payment during café hours would be taken up with Café Decks and service managers again.

22.9 Anti-social behaviour.

- Persons responsible for graffiti to a picnic bench had been dealt with via restorative justice carrying out a litter pick supervised by Cllr Gilbert and PCSO Hawkes on 30 November.
- A second picnic bench at the front of the park had subsequently been daubed in graffiti. The natural wood soaked up permanent marker pen which could not be cleaned with anti-graffiti kit therefore graffiti could only

be removed by either sanding the whole bench or painting over. Members were mindful that sanding could effectively encourage further graffiti. It was **RECOMMENDED** for the bench to be painted brown to match the other bench at the front of the park.

22.10 Flags/banners to identify/enhance the park. SHDC was working up designs for consideration at the next committee meeting.

22.11 Additional public seats. A TAP Fund bid (see 24.3) had been made for 3 public seats earmarked for 1 x Coronation Road and 2 x West Alvington Hill. However, another old stock wooden bench had been sourced for the former and a bench in situ was still serviceable for the latter. Therefore there was a possibility that 2 public seats could be available for installation around the putting green dependent on a successful funding outcome.

22.12 Goalposts. A new set of 5-a-side goalposts had been purchased and installed (using original netting) prior to the Christmas school holidays.

22.13 Bowling Club business. SHDC reported that engineers/estates officers were looking into building maintenance issues brought up by the Bowls Club and would be arranging a meeting in the near future. Val Statters reported that the Club had not had any recent communications with SHDC and looked forward to discussions.

22.14 Dogs On Leads Order.

- **Signs to identify Rack Park amenity space for dogs off leads.** Positioned November 2013.
- **Ground works to access Rack Park amenity space.** SHDC confirmed that the section of path was mostly the authority's land and had given permission for surface improvements proposed by KTC for a small digger to scrape off the mud/top surface and then compact road planings/aggregate at costs circa £500. It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to action grounds works at the access to Rack Park amenity space.
- **Stencilled 'signposting'.** SHDC had given permission for the stencil "Dogs On Leads – Thank You" to be painted at the access from Derby Road on a trial basis. To be completed during good weather.
- **Dog control.** Several dog walkers did not adhere to the dogs on leads policy. It was **RECOMMENDED** to enquire how SHDC intended to police dog control.

22.15 Maintenance matters.

- **Play space wall repairs.** SHDC would repair the metal edging caused by skateboarding.
- **Landscaping adjacent to café.** SHDC would action a planning condition which stipulated planting of a tree and shrubs.
- **High hedge complaint.** Regarding 2 large fir trees adjacent to the central footpath had been resolved by removal of one tree.

- **Mud from upper slopes and erosion.** The upper slopes had become very muddy in places and bare in others. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to place green waste from the GM recycling/storage area and to survey the erosion.
- **Wooden posts in children's play area.** Seven of the original 14 posts had been vandalised and removed. It was **RECOMMENDED** to query the way forward with SHDC.

22.16 Boundary fence for storage area. Andy Smythe (SHDC engineer) was drafting a plan for the area which would be shared with the committee.

22.17 Other immediate matters:

- **Street lighting.** SHDC reported that the authority did not light parks particularly where an alternative, safe, lit route existed i.e. Derby Road. Negatives included light pollution, probable increase in anti-social behaviour, and potential neighbour issues. KTC had researched that probably the only effective method to light up the park would be via a series of illuminated bollards at circa £500 each plus ground works, electrics, maintenance etc. therefore costs were exorbitant. It was **RECOMMENDED** to respond to the enquirer that SHDC/KTC could not support a suggestion for lighting.
- **WI Tree Planting Ceremony.** A plaque would be installed by the Silver Birch (off central footpath) at 11.00 a.m. on Monday 3 March.
- **Park events summer 2014.** Cllr Balkwill and Wendy Bolt would discuss with Marika Byrne (Café Decks) however, it was likely for any major summer event to be held in Duncombe Park.
- **Fall incident July 2013.** Correspondence had been exchanged in late 2013 between KTC and the parent of a small child who had tripped and fallen on the resin finished tarmac paths; this had been the first fall incident reported to SHDC/KTC since installation. No further action was required.

13/23 DUNCOMBE PARK

23.1 Trees and shrubs. SHDC was content for KTC to replace the 3 x Eucalyptus shrubs in poor condition with more suitable native shrubs and it was likely for SHDC GM team to plant.

23.2 Dog control. Members considered dog control to be satisfactory however, a notice to remind dog walkers to keep a careful watch on their dogs when off leads, and to pick up faeces, would be positioned in the interpretation board.

23.3 Maintenance matters including bench repairs.

- **Children's swings.** SHDC Property Team was likely to bring forward the timeframe to repaint the swings (there was a rolling programme of painting in play spaces across the district).
- **Hollows in central green space.** Paul Taper (SHDC Senior Engineer) had visited the park recently and did not consider the hollow had been

caused by a collapse of the underground watercourse culvert. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC GM team to fill a large hollow in the central green space.

- **Grass cutting.** SHDC GM team anticipated the purchase of a new sit-on mower to provide better cutting and collection of grass from 1 April. David Dain considered that the park did not receive the same attention as the Recreation Ground which could be exacerbated by the latter's Green Flag Award. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC GM team for their plans for grounds maintenance for summer 2014.

23.4 New interpretation panel. The panel had been installed in November 2013 and had received many favourable comments however, it misted up inside and was difficult to read. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to inspect the panel for water leaks and/or place water crystals to soak up any moisture.

23.5 Mural - repairs.

- It was noted that the mural (bordering the young children's play area) continued to deteriorate but it was not possible to carry out spot repairs. It was **RECOMMENDED** to continue to monitor the mural and to note that it would require a total re-paint eventually.
- Cllr Williams to be contacted to ascertain if suggested Devon Youth Service funding at circa £500 may still be available.

23.6 Goalposts. A set of 5-a-side goalposts had been re-instated prior to the Christmas school holidays.

23.7 Other immediate matters. Nil.

13/24 PUBLIC/GREEN SPACES

24.1 Waterside Walk finger post signs. Members conducted a walkabout and agreed locations for the finger posts in the Town Square and Britton's Field. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to consider KTC's preferred locations for finger posts.

24.2 Traffic barrier between Cookworthy Road and Lower Union Road. Re-paint had been included in the TAP Fund bid (see 24.3).

24.3 Town And Parish (TAP) Fund. KTC/West Alvington PC joint TAP Fund bid had been submitted in December 2013 as agreed at the previous committee meeting. All bids would be considered at Southern Area Cluster Meeting in February 2014 (time/date to be confirmed). It was agreed to request District Cllr Wingate to lobby for green space improvements at Bowcombe amenity space.

24.4 Grass verge cutting and weed killer spraying of primary roads. The final/6th grass cut would be conducted in March 2014. KTC had received £1,113 from Devon County Council to provide 4 cuts and an invoice was anticipated at £1,800 from SHDC i.e. to include extra 2 grass cuts and 2 weed killer sprays requiring additional KTC expenditure at £687.

24.5 Bank off west side of Cookworthy Road. KTC's grounds contractor had quoted £50 to cut the prominent half-moon shaped grass bank and bi-annual cutting would probably be required.

24.6 Kingsbridge Tree Trail: replanting of Katsura Tree x 2 and Exeter Elm along the quayside. KTC had agreed to contribute £100 towards re-planting of failed specimens in the Tree Trail. SHDC GM Team would carry out the planting shortly.

24.7 Luscombe Maye anniversary Oak tree. The planting ceremony had been arranged for 11.00 a.m. on Monday 10 February at Bowcombe amenity space with representatives from KTC and Luscombe Maye Estate Agents.

24.8 Other immediate matters:

- **Treblepark play area perimeter fence.** KTC had requested SHDC to consider enclosing the children's play area in order that it could be managed by SHDC's revised Dog Exclusion Order. SHDC had reported that there was not a dog fouling problem in the area and therefore costs of a fence and future maintenance could not be justified.
- **Rack Park Amenity Space.** Many dog walkers now used the area to allow their dogs to run off leads. It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to request SHDC to cut swathes leaving a defined walking strip and a larger area of denser grass.
- **Trees for Britton's Field.** Members noted a suggestion via Kingsbridge In Bloom for Rowan trees to be planted but it was not supported as it was considered that it could spoil the present vista and upset local residents.
- **Brownie Centenary.** Mandy Sarjeant, Leader 1st Kingsbridge Brownies, had proposed that the Brownies could plant a tree, 100 flowers or 100 bulbs to mark their centenary. Wendy Bolt noted that the WI also celebrated its centenary shortly and queried whether the 2 organisations wished to provide joint recognition. It was **RECOMMENDED** to invite the Brownies and WI to mark their centenaries in partnership.
- **Trim Trail.** It was noted that a Working Group had been formed to review the proposal for a town Trim Trail. Group members were presently 'fact-finding' and were due to hold their second meeting on 3 February 2014.
- **New flag.** Graham Price would replace the South West In Bloom flag at the Quay with a Devon flag on his return.
- **Committee membership.** The Chairman invited David Dain to become a committee member; David was delighted to accept.
- **Next meeting.** It was agreed to strongly request for an officer from SHDC to attend the next meeting.

13/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 25 April 2014 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 11.25 a.m.